

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Compositions comprising a) 5 to 50% by weight of an aliphatic dialdehyde having 2 to 10 carbon atoms; b) 2.5 to 20% by weight of at least one reductive saccharide having a dextrose equivalent of 10 to 100; c) 2.5 to 20% by weight of at least one water-soluble, optionally monoetherified polyoxaalkylene glycol having a molecular weight of more than 100 and not more than 2000; and d) 90 to 10% by weight of water, 0.05 to 0.19 mole of the components b) and c) being added per mole of the component a), outstandingly suitable for the pretanning of pelts and subsequent production of leathers free of heavy metals.